

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated May 17, 2006.

Claims 45-48, 51, 53, and 55-59 are amended, claims 49 and 50 are canceled, and claims 102-105 are added; as a result, claims 45-48, 51-62, and 100-105 are now pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant submitted a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and a 1449 Form on November 15, 2004 and on August 9, 2005. Applicant respectfully requests that initialed copies of the 1449 forms be returned to Applicants' Representatives to indicate that the cited references have been considered by the Examiner.

Applicant filed a Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") on January 15, 2004. The Examiner partially initialed the Form 1449 that accompanied this IDS. Specifically, Patent No. 6,052,625 listed on the fourth page was not indicated as considered by the Examiner. Applicant encloses herewith a copy of the initialed Form 1449 for the Examiner's reference and a copy of the stamped returned postcard indicating that the documents were received by the USPTO.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 45-49, 52-55, 57, 59-62, 100 and 101 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto (U.S. Patent No. 3,803,457) in view of Farahmandi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,451,073). Claim 49 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 45-48 and 52

Claim 45 has been rewritten to include the subject matter of allowable claim 50. Claims 56-48 and 52 depend therefrom. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 53-55 and 57

Claim 53 has been rewritten to include the subject matter of allowable claim 56. Claims 54, 55, and 57 depend therefrom. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 59-62, 100, and 101

Claim 59 has been amended to better describe the subject matter recited in the claim. Applicant believes claim 59 is not obvious in view of the cited references since, even if combined, the combination does not include each limitation recited in the claim. For instance, Applicant cannot find in the combination: wherein a cathode terminal of the first stack and a anode terminal of the second stack are electrically connected to the conductive case such that the capacitance between an anode terminal of the first stack and a cathode terminal of the second stack is equivalent to the capacitance of each stack connected in series, the capacitor case serving as an electrical connection between the stacks, as recited in claim 59.

Claims 60-62, 100, and 101 include each limitation of their parent claim and are therefore also not obvious in view of the cited references. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 50, 51, 56 and 58 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has added the subject matter of claim 50 to parent claim 45. The subject matter of claim 56 has been added to parent claim 53. Claim 58 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 359-3267 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.


Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,


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Date 7.17.06

By 
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 17 day of June, 2006.


Name


Signature